

We claim:

1. A method for producing activated carbon from poultry manure comprising:

- a) carbonizing poultry manure to produce carbonized manure, and
- b) activating said carbonized manure under conditions effective to produce activated carbon having a BET surface area greater than about 200 m²/g.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said poultry manure is selected from the group consisting of poultry cake and poultry litter.

3. The process of claim 1 further comprising grinding said poultry manure prior to said carbonizing to provide a mixture of substantially uniform sized particles.

4. The process of claim 3 wherein said poultry manure is ground to about 20 mesh.

5. The process of claim 3 further comprising pelletizing said mixture of substantially uniform sized particles to provide pelleted manure.

6. The process of claim 5 wherein said pelleted manure is between approximately 3/16 inch and approximately 3/8 inch in diameter.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein said carbonizing comprises heating said poultry manure for a period of time and under conditions effective to carbonize said manure.

8. The process of claim 3 wherein said poultry manure is carbonized in a substantially oxygen-free environment.

9. The process of claim 1 wherein said activating comprises contacting said carbonized manure with steam.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein said activating comprises contacting said carbonized manure with steam at a flow rate of between about 0.1 to about 5.0 ml/kg·min, at a temperature between about 700 to about 900°C, for about 15 to about 75 minutes.

11. The process of claim 10 wherein said stream flow rate is between about 1.0 to about 5.0 ml/kg·min.

12. The process of claim 1 further comprising washing said activated carbon with mineral acid to remove ash therefrom, and rinsing the washed activated carbon with water.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said conditions for activating said carbonized manure are effective to produce activated carbon having a BET surface area greater than about 300 m²/g.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said activated carbon further comprises a phosphate ion content greater than 4.0% by weight.

15. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 1.
16. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 2.
17. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 5.
18. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 10.
19. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 12.
20. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 13.
21. Activated carbon produced by the process of claim 14.